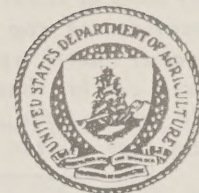


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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

No. 175

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 7, 1955

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Tobacco Index Drops 14 Points

North Carolina farmers received lower prices for tobacco, cotton and wheat on December 15, 1954 causing the "All Farm Products" index of prices received by farmers to drop 6 points (slightly more than 2 percent) during the month ended December 15, 1954. The December index of 285 compares with an index of 288 a year earlier and an index of 297 on December

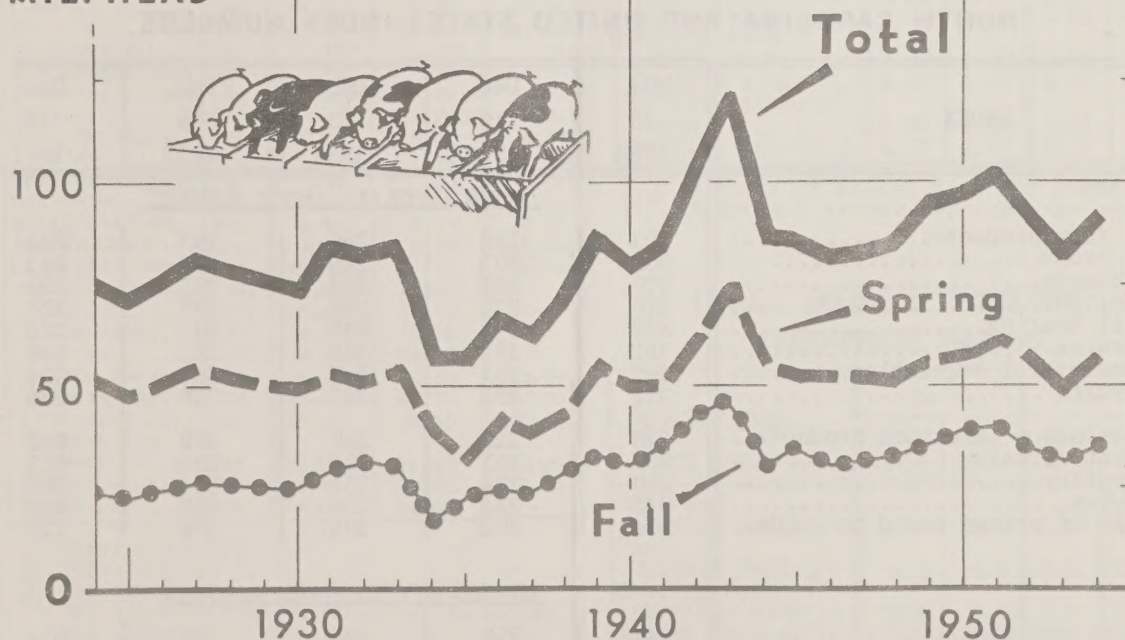
(Continued on Page 2)

U. S. OUTLOOK FOR PORK

The hog-corn price ratio continued above average in the fall of 1954. However, it was declining rapidly as increased marketings brought lower hog prices while a smaller corn crop gave strength to corn prices. Prospects are for no more than a moderate further gain in the number of pigs saved in the spring of 1955. Prices of hogs in 1955 may be at about an average relation to the price of corn, being neither especially profitable nor unprofitable to producers.

U. S. PIG CROPS

MIL. HEAD



1954 FALL PIG CROP AS INDICATED BY JUNE INTENTIONS

See (Page 4) For Fall Pig Crop and Expected Spring Crop Estimates For N. C.

Cattle prices in the next few months may hold at least as high as a year earlier. Supplies of top grades may be slightly smaller until spring, and marketings of grass cattle, though seasonally large this fall and winter, probably will total less than last winter.

This is the first year on record that average egg prices received by farmers have not risen seasonally from spring to fall. Because monthly egg supply is now increasing seasonally, average prices probably will ease down for several months after November. However, the gain in production over the year before is tapering off.

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED (Cont'd)

15, 1952. This is the lowest point reached by the index since July 1950 when it was 279.

Lower tobacco prices, reflecting the poor quality sales during December, accounted for most of the decline in the index. See the accompanying tables for these prices and price indexes with comparisons.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 PERCENT

Parity Ratio at Lowest Point Since 1941

The Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers declined 5 points (2 percent) during the month ending December 15. Lower prices received for hogs, lettuce, cotton, milk, and eggs were primarily responsible for the decline. Price increases for feed grains, hay, sweetpotatoes, butterfat, and calves only partially offset these reductions. Compared with December 1953, prices for crops averaged slightly higher with the All Crops Index up 1 percent. The Livestock and Livestock Products Index, however, was 12 percent lower, and the all Farm Products Index 6 percent lower.

The Parity Index (Prices paid for Commodities, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) remained at 279 during the month ended December 15, less than 1 percent higher than a year earlier. Retail prices of production items averaged slightly lower, but prices of family living items averaged the same as in November.

With farm product prices down and the Parity Index steady, the Parity Ratio dropped to 86, the lowest since March 1941.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX	Nov. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1951
<u>NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS</u>					
All farm products.....	291	285	288	297	314
All crops.....	309	302	296	304	322
Tobacco.....	379	365	363	363	389
Cotton.....	276	273	264	277	339
Oil Bearing.....	339	345	308	313	326
Grains.....	182	181	168	192	188
Commercial vegetables.....	242	251	243	357	254
Fruits.....	278	293	297	278	233
Livestock & livestock products..	228	227	259	270	282
Meat Animals.....	259	253	292	264	313
Poultry.....	200	204	254	284	288
Dairy.....	243	241	238	259	249
Ratio of prices Rec'd to paid*..	104	102	104	106	110
<u>UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS</u>					
Prices received.....	244	239	288	297	314
Prices paid, int.; taxes and wage rates.....	279	279	278	281	285
Parity ratio.....	87	86	104	106	110

* Ratio of N. C. prices received for all farm products to U. S. Prices paid.

MOST FEED PRICES UP SLIGHTLY

Local Market Poultry

Feed-Price Ratios Steady

Average prices paid by Tar Heel farmers for most feed items increased slightly during the month ended December 15, 1954. All mixed dairy feed, soybean meal, cottonseed meal and corn meal were all costing farmers a little more than a month earlier. Prices paid for meat scrap and broil-

er growing mash were down some from the previous month.

Unchanged poultry feed prices and steady poultry prices held the poultry feed-price ratios fairly constant during the month.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	N. C.		U. S.
		NOV. 15 1954	DEC. 15 1954	DEC. 15 1954
-DOLLARS-				
TOBACCO 1/ 2/..	L.B.	.517	.475	.500
CORN.....	BU.	1.64	1.65	1.39
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.08	2.05	2.12
OATS.....	BU.	.93	.93	.767
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.29	1.26	1.09
RYE.....	BU.	2.15	2.15	1.14
SORGHUM GRAINS.	CWT.	2.50	2.60	2.22
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.65	2.70	2.57
PEANUTS.....	L.B.	.134	.137	.125
COTTON.....	L.B.	.334	.330	.3267
COTTONSEED.....	TON	62.00	62.00	59.60
WOOL.....	L.B.	.550	.550	.507
HOGS.....	CWT.	19.60	18.50	17.00
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	9.70	10.30	15.60
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	14.50	17.00	15.90
SHEEP.....	CWT.	6.00	6.00	5.78
LAMBS.....	CWT.	18.20	17.50	17.50
MILK COWS.....	HD.	91.00	88.00	141.00
CHICKENS, ALL.....	L.B.	.187	.186	.176
COM'L BROILERS.	L.B.	.190	.190	.191
TURKEYS.....	L.B.	.300	.305	.294
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.440	.455	.327
MILK, WHLSES/.....	CWT.	5.75	4/5.65	4.33
RETAIL 5/.....	QT.	.220	.22	.208
BUTTERFAT.....	L.B.	.53	.53	.58
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.70	1.80	1.05
SWEETPOTATOES.	BU.	2.45	2.65	2.59
APPLES, COM'L.....	BU.	1.95	2.25	2.96
LESPEDEZA SEED.	CWT.	19.40	20.80	19.00
KOREAN.....	CWT.	18.00	19.30	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	21.00	22.70	-
COM. & TENN.....	CWT.	24.00	25.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	24.00	25.00	-
HAY, ALL BALE 6/.....	TON	34.20	33.50	23.30
ALFALFA HAY.....	TON	43.00	40.50	24.30
LESPEDEZA HAY.	TON	35.50	35.00	30.70
SOYBEAN AND COWPEA HAY.....	TON	32.00	31.50	32.00
PEANUT VINE.....	TON	20.50	23.00	26.40
OTHER.....	TON	34.00	34.00	-

1/ Types - 11-31 N. C.

2/ Types - 11-37 U. S.

3/ Estimated average prices for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

4/ Preliminary.

5/ Sold by farmers direct to consumers.

6/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	N. C.		U. S.	
	Nov. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1954	Nov. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1954
-DOLLARS-				
Mixed Dairy Feed Under 29% Protein				
All.....	4.00	4.05	3.89	3.92
16% protein.....	3.85	3.90	3.81	3.84
18% protein.....	4.00	4.05	3.85	3.89
20% protein.....	4.20	4.25	4.14	4.16
24% protein.....	4.35	4.35	4.29	4.31
29% & over.....	4.85	4.95	4.78	4.82
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed meal.....	-	-	4.64	4.70
Soybean meal.....	4.85	4.95	4.77	4.79
Cottonseed meal.....	4.10	4.20	4.41	4.44
Meat Scrap.....	5.50	5.40	5.57	5.52
Grain By-products				
Bran.....	3.55	3.55	3.01	3.03
Middlings.....	3.75	3.75	3.17	3.18
Corn meal.....	4.50	4.60	3.82	3.79
Corn gluten.....	-	-	3.58	3.65
Poultry Feed				
Laying mash.....	5.10	5.10	4.76	4.75
Scratch grain....	4.50	4.50	4.27	4.25
Broiler growing mash.....	5.40	5.30	5.31	5.18
Poultry Ration. 1/	4.27	4.27	3.78	3.79

1/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS

POULTRY FEED PRICE RATIO 1/	N. C.		U. S.	
	Nov. 1954	Dec. 1954	Nov. 1954	Dec. 1954
Egg-Feed (Laying Mash)...	10.3	10.7	9.0	8.7
Farm Chicken Feed 2/.	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9
Broiler-Feed (Broiler Mash)...	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.7
Turkey Feed 2/...	7.0	7.1	7.6	7.8

1/ Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs, 1 pound farm chickens, 1 pound broilers and 1 pound turkeys.

2/ Poultry ration.

PIG CROP ESTIMATES -- NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

ITEM	SPRING CROP (DECEMBER 1-JUNE 1)				FALL CROP (JUNE 1-DECEMBER 1)			YEARLY TOTAL (SPRING & FALL)	
	1943-52 AVERAGE	1953	1954	1955*	1943-52 AVERAGE	1953	1954	1953	1954
NORTH CAROLINA					--THOUSANDS--				
SOWS FARROWING	142	139	152	150	113	97	115	236	267
PIGS SAVED	892	931	1,018	-	730	650	794	1,581	1,812
PIGS PER LITTER**	6.3	6.7	6.7	-	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.8
UNITED STATES									
SOWS FARROWING	9,025	7,300	8,080	8,469	5,530	4,751	5,424	12,051	13,504
PIGS SAVED	57,023	49,703	55,728	-	35,850	31,809	36,766	81,512	92,494
PIGS PER LITTER**	6.33	6.81	6.90	-	6.49	6.70	6.78	6.76	6.85

* Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions report.

** Actual number.

FALL PIG CROP ABOVE A YEAR AGO--LARGER SPRING CROP EXPECTED

North Carolina's 1954 fall pig crop (pigs saved June 1 - December 1) totaled 794,000 head. Such a pig crop is 22 percent larger than the 650,000 head saved during the fall of 1953, and is 9 percent larger than the 1943-52 average fall crop.

The fall pig crop plus the 1,018,000 saved during the spring give a total of 1,812,000 for the year. This is 15 percent more than the total of 1,581,000 pigs saved during 1953 and is 12 percent above the 1943-52 average.

Sows farrowing in the State during the fall of 1954 is estimated at 115,000 head. Thus, an average size litter of 6.9 pigs saved was realized -- the highest of record. During the fall of 1953, 97,000 sows farrowed, while the average size litter was 6.7 pigs.

Intentions reports from Tar Heel swine producers indicate that 150,000 sows have been and will be bred for spring farrowing (December 1, 1954 - June 1, 1955). This number is slightly smaller than the estimated 152,000 farrowed during the spring

of 1954 and compares with the 1943-52 spring average of 142,000.

For the United States, the combined 1954 spring and fall pig crops totaled 92.5 million head, an increase of 13 percent from a year ago. The spring pig crop at 55.7 million head was up 12 percent and the fall crop at 36.8 million head was 16 percent larger. The number of sows farrowing this fall at 5,424,000 head was 14 percent larger than last year. The number of pigs saved per litter for the fall crop at 6.78 pigs is the highest on record. The fall pig crop was the largest since 1951.

For the 1955 U. S. spring pig crop, reports on breeding intentions indicate a total of 8,469,000 sows to farrow, 5 percent above the number farrowing last spring. If the intentions for spring farrowings materialize and the number of pigs saved per litter equals the 10-year average with an allowance for upward trend, the 1955 spring pig crop would be 58.5 million head. A crop of this size would be 5 percent larger than last spring.

FALL SOWS FARROWING BY MONTHS -- N. C. AND U. S.

YEAR	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	TOTAL	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.
N. C.								--THOUSAND SOWS--					
1953	10	15	17	22	20	13	97	10.1	15.6	17.7	23.0	20.1	13.5
1954	13	16	23	26	20	17	115	11.0	14.1	19.7	23.0	17.7	14.5
U. S.								--PERCENT OF TOTAL--					
1953	683	624	1,196	1,319	646	283	4,751	14.4	13.1	25.2	27.8	13.6	5.9
1954	821	770	1,397	1,413	689	334	5,424	15.1	14.2	25.8	26.0	12.7	6.2

RECORD SLAUGHTER DURING NOVEMBER

Commercial slaughter of the major species of livestock during November in N. C. totaled 27,068,000 pounds liveweight. This was 26 percent above the November 1953 total and was the highest of record for the month. Cattle slaughter in the State during November, which reached 12,278,000 pounds was by far the highest of record for the month, being more than a third larger than the 8,865,000-pound kill of November 1953. Calf slaughter during November amounted to 1,045,000 pounds -- the highest for the month since 1948. The liveweight of hogs killed for commercial purposes during November jumped to 13,736,000 pounds. This was 16 percent above November 1953 and was the second highest November kill of record, the record having been set in November 1952 when 15,542,000 pounds were slaughtered.

Meanwhile, production of red meat in commercial livestock slaughter plants in the United States totaled 2,202 million pounds (dressed weight) during November. This was 4 percent more than either the 2,122 million pounds produced a month ago or the 2,116 million pounds produced a year earlier. Meat production for the first 11 months of this year was 21,555 million pounds, 2 percent more than the 21,040

million pounds produced during the corresponding period last year. Compared with the first 11 months a year ago beef production was up 5 percent; veal production up 8 percent; mutton and lamb production up 2 percent, while pork production was down 2 percent.

National beef production in November was estimated at 1,058 million pounds, 2 percent less than a month earlier, but 2 percent more than the same month last year. Veal production in November totaled 135 million pounds, 12 percent less than the previous month, but 2 percent more than a year ago. Pork production in November totaled 950 million pounds -- 16 percent above a month ago and 7 percent above a year ago. November lard production totaled 227 million pounds which was 15 percent larger than a month ago and 10 percent above a year ago. Mutton and lamb production totaled 59 million pounds during November. This was 6 percent less than a month ago, but 2 percent more than a year ago.

Poultry meat production in the U. S. during November totaled 522 million pounds -- 11 percent more than in November last year and 28 percent more than the 1943-52 average November production.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER*

SPECIES	NOVEMBER				JANUARY-NOVEMBER TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
N. C.	<u>THOUS. HEAD</u>		<u>THOUS. LBS.</u>		<u>THOUS. HEAD</u>		<u>THOUS. LBS.</u>	
Cattle	11.8	16.0	8,865	12,278	116.3	143.3	90,546	110,598
Calves	4.4	5.7	814	1,045	49.7	60.7	8,737	10,836
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	8	9	1.5	1.2	133	108
Hogs	58.0	64.0	11,824	13,736	645.0	606.0	132,743	130,303
TOTAL	74.3	85.8	21,511	27,068	812.5	811.2	232,159	251,845
U. S.	<u>MIL. HEAD</u>		<u>MIL. LBS.</u>		<u>MIL. HEAD</u>		<u>MIL. LBS.</u>	
Cattle	2.1	2.2	1,964	1,991	21.4	22.9	20,074	21,174
Calves	1.1	1.2	243	247	10.6	11.7	2,393	2,593
Sheep & Lambs	1.3	1.3	124	124	14.6	14.6	1,378	1,386
Hogs	6.6	7.0	1,543	1,657	60.5	57.5	14,150	13,785
TOTAL	11.1	11.7	3,874	4,019	107.1	106.7	37,995	38,938

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

TOBACCO OUTLOOK FOR 1955

Prices Will Again Be Supported

At 90 Percent Of Parity

The National 1954-55 supplies of most kinds of tobacco except cigar filler and binder are fairly large with both carryover and production higher than a year ago. Domestic use of most kinds of tobacco in 1955 probably will be about as large as in the preceding year and exports of unmanufactured tobacco are expected to increase moderately.

Marketings of the 1954 flue-cured crop have been practically completed and the average price for gross sales at 52 cents was only slightly less than for 1953. An estimated 70 percent of the 1954 Burley crop had been marketed by December 21 at an average of 51 cents -- 5 percent lower than the comparable period of a year earlier.

The price support level for the 1955 crop will be 90 percent of parity. When a marketing quota is in effect on flue-cured tobacco, this level is mandatory. The base price for calculating the 1955 flue-cured parity price is likely to be almost

unchanged. The Government support level for 1954 flue-cured was 47.9 cents per pound.

FARMER'S SHARE OF THE CONSUMERS DOLLAR

Although farmers received about one-third of consumers' total expenditures for farm-derived products in 1953, their share varied widely among products. Generally, the more processing, transportation, and other marketing operations involved, the smaller was the farmer's share. Farmers received 73 cents of the dollar consumers spent for eggs, which required little processing and usually were not shipped long distances. For bread, their share was only 15 cents. The farmer's share of each dollar consumers spent for food in retail stores averaged 45 cents. Costs of services performed in converting cotton and wool into textile products accounted for the relatively small shares received by farmers. Excise taxes made up nearly half the marketing bill for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.

Spent for Farm Products

FARMERS GET ONE-THIRD OF CONSUMER'S DOLLAR



DATA FOR 1953

*FOOD AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, SHOES, CLOTHING AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODUCTS

°FARMER'S SHARE FOR "MARKET BASKET" OF FARM FOODS BOUGHT IN RETAIL STORES

RYE ACREAGE SEEDED UP FOR 1955

The acreage seeded to rye for the 1955 crop in North Carolina for all purposes was 131,000 acres or about 10 percent above the 1954 crop of 119,000 acres. A crop of this size is still more than 6 percent below the (1943-52) average crop of 140,000 acres. The condition of the 1955 crop on December 1 was 87 percent compared with 80 percent a year earlier and an average of 86 percent on December 1 from 1943-52.

The acreage of rye sown for all purposes in the United States for 1955 is the largest in 12 years. The estimated 5,052,000 acres sown this fall is one-fourth more than the 4,023,000 acres seeded last fall and nearly a third more than the 10-year average of 3,831,000 acres. This is the second year in which rye acreage has shown a sharp increase.

The increase in seeded acreage this fall is due to a combination of the reduced wheat acreage allotments and the increased need for rye as supplemental pasture in areas which experienced dry weather during the summer and fall months.

1954 APPLE PRODUCTION UP CONSIDERABLY

Tar Heel growers produced a commercial apple crop of 1,900,000 bushels in 1954, -- an increase of 118 percent from the small crop of 873,000 bushels produced in 1953. The 1954 crop was the second highest of record being exceeded only by the 1952 crop of 2,053,000 bushels.

Production of winter varieties in 1954 was 1,691,000 bushels compared to 820,000 bushels in 1953, while fall varieties this year produced 190,000 bushels against 44,000 bushels for last season, and the production of summer varieties was 19,000 bushels, compared with 9,000 bushels in 1953.

Weather conditions during the spring were very favorable and most orchards set a very heavy crop. Extremely dry weather during the summer retarded sizing considerably in many areas. Production was further reduced by strong winds that accompanied Hurricane "Hazel" during October. These factors combined caused the final production to be somewhat below earlier expectations.

N. C. 1955 WHEAT ACREAGE SAME AS LAST YEAR

Indicated Production Down Slightly

According to reports received from wheat producers it is estimated that 364,000 acres of wheat have been seeded for the 1955 crop in North Carolina. This is the same as was seeded for 1954 but 19 percent below the 1953 seedings of 449,000 acres and 20 percent below average.

Dry weather during September and the first half of October delayed the preparation of land for seeding operations in most of the major producing areas. However, more favorable weather during late October and early November enabled most growers to seed their intended acreage. Stands were generally normal for most areas and although the crop has been hit by very cold weather it is still in good condition.

Based on the conditions as of December 1, the production for 1954 is estimated at 7,280,000 bushels, which is 2 percent less than the 7,436,000 bushels produced last year but about 5 percent above the 1943-52 average production.

The acreage seeded to winter wheat in the United States for the 1955 crop is forecast at 43,442,000 acres, or 94 percent of the 1954 crop of 46,084,000 acres. A crop of 679 million bushels is in prospect for 1955, based on conditions as of December 1, and other factors. A crop of this size would be one-fifth less than average and about one-seventh less than the 1954 crop of 791 million bushels.

Hog prices for at least the next 6 months will continue below unusually high levels a year earlier. As marketings pass their peak in early winter, a modest upturn in prices is in prospect.

Prices to farmers for cottonseed and peanuts are above a year ago and the support levels. Reduced production is the main reason for strength in peanut prices. Increased competition among crushers for the smaller supply has resulted in higher prices for cottonseed. Movement of soybeans to market has been delayed, and export interest has been active. This has helped maintain soybean prices.

FARM REPORT

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COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES 1/		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	Nov. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1954	Nov. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1954	Nov. 15 1954	Dec. 15 1954
	DOLLARS	DOLLARS	DOLLARS	DOLLARS	PERCENT	PERCENT
Cotton, Lb.....	.3317	.3267	.3472	.3472	96	94
Wheat, Bu.....	2.12	2.12	2.48	2.48	85	85
Corn, Bu.....	1.37	1.39	1.80	1.80	76	77
Oats, Bu.....	.761	.767	.868	.868	88	88
Barley, Bu.....	1.08	1.09	1.35	1.35	80	81
Rye, Bu.....	1.18	1.14	1.69	1.69	70	67
Beef Cattle, Cwt...	15.60	15.60	20.90	20.90	75	75
Hogs, Cwt.....	18.60	17.00	20.50	20.50	91	83
Lambs, Cwt.....	17.70	17.50	22.80	22.80	78	77
Chickens, All, Lb..	.177	.176	.296	.296	60	59
Eggs, Doz.....	.339	.327	.463	.463	64 4/	63 4/
Milk, Whole, Cwt. 2/	4.42	4.33	4.69	4.69 3/	87 4/	85 4/

1/ Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect.

2/ Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.